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09/975,286	10/10/2001	Christopher Peiffer	1014-152US01	9849
7590 08/30/2006			EXAMINER	
Kent J. Sieffert Shumaker & Sieffert, P.A. Suite 105 8425 Seasons Parkway St. Paul, MN 55125			PATEL, HARESH N	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/975,286	PEIFFER, CHRISTOPHER
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit
	Haresh Patel	2154
The MAILING DATE of this communication a	appears on the cover sheet with the	correspondence address
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REWHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING  Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.  If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory per  Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by stationary and the set of the communication of the set of t	B DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be to did will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the cause the application to become ABANDON	N. imely filed m the mailing date of this communication. ED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
Status	,	
Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23     This action is <b>FINAL</b> . 2b)⊠ T     Since this application is in condition for allow closed in accordance with the practice under	his action is non-final. wance except for formal matters, pr	
Disposition of Claims		
4) ⊠ Claim(s) 1-5,7,8 and 11-26 is/are pending in  4a) Of the above claim(s) is/are witho  5) □ Claim(s) is/are allowed.  6) ⊠ Claim(s) 1-5, 7, 8, 11-26 is/are rejected.  7) ⊠ Claim(s) 24 and 25 is/are objected to.  8) □ Claim(s) are subject to restriction and  Application Papers	drawn from consideration.	
9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Exam	iner.	
10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) a Applicant may not request that any objection to the Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the corrupt The oath or declaration is objected to by the	the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. Se rection is required if the drawing(s) is o	ee 37 CFR 1.85(a). bjected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119		
12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign a) All b) Some * c) None of:  1. Certified copies of the priority docume 2. Certified copies of the priority docume 3. Copies of the certified copies of the papplication from the International Bure * See the attached detailed Office action for a light section.	ents have been received. ents have been received in Applica riority documents have been receive eau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).	tion No ved in this National Stage
Attachment(s)  1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) Interview Summar	
<ol> <li>Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/Paper No(s)/Mail Date</li> </ol>	Paper No(s)/Mail I  Notice of Informal  Other:	Patent Application (PTO-152)

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#### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 11-26 are subject to examination. Claims 6, 9, 10 are cancelled.

## Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 6/23/2006, pages 7-14, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Therefore, rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 8, 11-26 is maintained.

Applicant argues (1), "Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection to the extent such rejections may be considered applicable to the claims as amended".

The examiner respectfully disagrees in response to applicant's arguments. The claimed have been amended along with <u>newly</u> presented limitations, please see the claims, which is addressed by the new ground(s) of rejection (please refer to the below rejections of this office action). Therefore, the rejection is maintained.

Applicant argues (2), "Branstad is related to sender computes an authentication tag that is communicated along with a message to a receiver, Branstad teaches using a bitwise XOR function to computer the tag at the sender or receiver, the sender computes an authentication tag, Bradstad explains that the KR5 cyptographic technique uses XOR operations and rotations to computer the authentication tag from the message, ..., using the same mechanism", "Fielding describes the HTTP protocol, the parameters and headers used when communication via the HTTP protocol, Branstad and Fielding fail to teach applying a bitwise XOR operation between two different messages when determining whether the strings match", "The Branstad is applying XOR operations to different data words of the same message, The examiner suggests Branstad

compares two strings by comparing message content with or without errors, "Smith does not teach or suggest performing a bitwise operation between a predefined flag and a result of the exclusive OR operation, and then comparing the predetermined flag and a result of the bitwise OR operation to produce an indication for the case insensitive string match", "there is no motivation to combine the teachings for the claimed comparing of the strings, please see claim 1".

The examiner respectfully disagrees in response to applicant's arguments. First, the teachings of the cited references are <u>not limited</u> as mentioned above by the applicant. The cited reference each disclose the respective relied upon limiations. The claim has been amended along with newly presented limitations, which is addressed by the new ground(s) of rejection (please refer to the below rejections of this office action). The claimed invention, please see claimed limitations of the claim 1, which is related to the applicant arguments, is <u>not limited</u> to either implemented at a sender or receiver, whether a message can contain predefined string in the message itself or not, whether authentication tag can or cannot be considered for one and/or both of the strings of the claim, whether the claimed comparing of two strings can be used for a cyptographic technique or not, whether the HTTP protocol can utilize the comparing of the two strings or not, whether the two strings of the claimed invention is part of the same message or not, etc.

In fact, the specification of the case under prosecution, at page 16, lines 12-21 clearly states, "While the present invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to the foregoing preferred embodiments, those skilled in the art will understand that many variations may be made therein without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as

defined in the following claims. The description of the invention should be understood to indude all novel and nonobvious combinations of elements described herein, and claims may be presented in this or a later application to any novel and nonobvious combination of these elements".

The applicant's interpretation that the examiner suggests Branstad compares two strings by comparing message content with or without errors is a misinterpretation, because the message content is not compared with or without errors, but two strings are compared. One of the string that is used for the comparison may or may not contain error.

For the concern that "Smith does not teach or suggest performing a bitwise operation between a predefined flag and a result of the exclusive OR operation, and then comparing the predetermined flag and a result of the bitwise OR operation to produce an indication for the case insensitive string match", <u>all</u> these limitations are not rejected using the Smith reference. In fact, the claim have been amended along with newly presented limitations, please see the claims, which is addressed by the new ground(s) of rejection (please refer to the below rejections of this office action).

Regarding the applicant's concern for the motivation to combine the teachings of the cited reference, for the claimed comparing of the strings, the applicant is further kindly requested to refer the disclosure of Rob Saccoccio, "Case insensitive compare when getting environment headers", Wed, 6, Jun 2001, Chelsea.net, pages 1 and 2, (Hereinafter Rob-Saccoccio); Eric Sit, "Case insensitive compare when getting environment headers", Mon, 4, Jun 2001, pages 1 and 2, (Hereinafter Eric-Sit) and Smith et al., U. S. Publication 2005/0246716, Microsoft Corporation,

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paragraphs, 28768, 28759, 19857, 19860-19864, 19874-19899, 68, 77, 14441, 14435, 20109-20115, 22, 30552, 29045-29045.

Since, applicant's claims contain broadly claimed subject matter, it clearly reads upon the examiner's interpretation of the claimed subject matter. Therefore, the rejection is maintained.

#### Claim Objections

3. Claims 24 and 25 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 24 should contain --:-- after "the method comprising".

Claim 25 should contain --: -- after "HTTP header by".

Appropriate correction is required.

#### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1, 24, 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitations, "the predetermined flag", "the case-insensitive string match". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim (Please see MPEP 706.03(d).

Claim 24 recites the limitations, "the unknown string". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim (Please see MPEP 706.03(d).

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Claim 25 recites the limitations, "the predefined string", "the unknown string". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim (Please see MPEP 706.03(d).

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

- 5. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.
- 6. Claims 1-26 contain comparing that do not produce a tangible result. Comparing alone is not producing a tangible result. It's not until the result of the comparison is used in a disclosed practical application or at least made available for use in a disclosed practical application that it becomes a tangible result, which enables any usefulness of having done the comparison to be realized (please see the claimed subject matter of claims 1-26). The steps of the claims (body of the claims) need hardware to perform the steps. Further claim 25 claims a computer networking device, however, the body of the claim, i.e., lines 4-10 of the claim 25 contain method/process steps.

# Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- 7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
  - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

- 8. Claims 1-5, 7, 8, 11-20, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Branstad in view of Fielding, Smith et al., 6,377,991 (Hereinafter Smith) and "Official Notice".
- 9. As per claim 1, Branstad discloses a computer-implemented method for comparing (e.g., col., 21, lines 21 27, col., 3, lines 35 48) an unknown string (e.g., string with or without errors, figure 12, col., 3, lines 9 39) to a string (e.g., col., 3, lines 26 38), the method comprising:

identifying a string (e.g., col., 3, lines 26 - 38);

identifying an unknown string for comparison with the string (e.g., col., 3, lines 35 - 48); performing a bitwise exclusive OR operation (e.g., col., 22, lines 2 - 21, col., 21, lines 21 - 27, col., 3, lines 35 - 48) on a segment of the unknown string (e.g., col., 19, lines 19 - 34) and a segment of the string (e.g., col., 20, lines 18 - 27); and

identifying string match based on the exclusive OR operation (e.g., col., 22, lines 2-21).

Bradstad also discloses exclusive OR operation between the two strings (e.g., block 1756, block 1760, figure 17B) and a result of the exclusive OR operation (e.g., col., 22, lines 2-21, figure 17B, note: it is also inherent that an exclusive OR operation produces a result).

However, Branstad does not specifically mention about usage of strings having an ASCII binary representation and string being a case-insensitive string.

Fielding discloses well-known usage of strings having an ASCII (e.g., section 3.4, page 4) binary representation (e.g., section 14.15, page 16) and string being a case-insensitive string (e.g., section 3.4, page 4).

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Branstad with the teachings of Fielding in order to facilitate usage of strings having an ASCII binary representation and string being a case-insensitive string because the ASCII binary representation would help support communicating information among two entities using the ASCII character set. The case-insensitive implementation would support usage of characters regardless of their uppercase or lowercase.

Branstad and Fielding do not specifically mention about applying a predefined flag to the result and to produce an indication.

However, Smith discloses the well-known concept applying a predefined flag to the result and to produce an indication (e.g., col., 15, lines 17 - 62, figures 3, 5-7).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Branstad and Fielding with the teachings of Smith in order to facilitate usage of applying a predefined flag to the result and to produce an indication because the predefined flag would support deciding what the result value is from the possible result values of the result. The indication would enhance supporting the communicating information, as it would provide information on whether the string match has occurred or not.

Branstad, Fielding and Smith do disclose the string being predefined, performing a bitwise operation between the predefined flag and the result and comparing the predetermined flag and a result of the bitwise operation.

"Official Notice" is taken that both the concept and advantages of providing usage of the string being predefined, performing a bitwise operation between the predefined flag and the result and comparing the predetermined flag and a result of the bitwise operation is well known

and expected in the art. For example, Rob Saccoccio, "Case insensitive compare when getting environment headers", Wed, 6, Jun 2001, Chelsea.net, pages 1 and 2, (Hereinafter Rob-Saccoccio) discloses these limitations along with clear motivation to overcome HTTP 1.1 specification with a fix for a need for case insensitive compare for the HTTP headers, please see page 1. Eric Sit, "Case insensitive compare when getting environment headers", Mon, 4, Jun 2001, pages 1 and 2, (Hereinafter Eric-Sit) discloses these limitations along with clear motivation to overcome HTTP 1.1 specification with a fix for a need for case insensitive compare for the environment strings, please see pages 1 and 2. Smith et al., U. S. Publication 2005/0246716, Microsoft Corporation, also discloses these limitations, please see paragraphs, 28768, 28759, 19857, 19860-19864, 19874-19899, 68, 77, 14441, 14435, 20109-20115, 22, 30552, 29045-29045.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include usage of the string being predefined, the a bitwise operation between the predefined flag and the result and comparing the predetermined flag and a result of the bitwise operation with the teachings of Branstad, Fielding and Smith in order to facilitate the bitwise operation and the comparison because the bitwise operation and the comparison would provide further comparison of the value of the strings (including predefined string) that are used for the bitwise operation and the comparison. The operations on the strings that are used for comparison would provide whether a case-insensitive match is occurred or not among the strings.

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10. As per claim 2, Branstad, Fielding and Smith disclose the claimed limitations as rejected above. Branstad also discloses the following:

identifying a segment of the predefined string (e.g., col., 20, lines 18 - 27) and identifying a segment of the unknown string (e.g., col., 19, lines 19 - 34) for comparison (e.g., col., 3, lines 35 - 48) with the predefined string (e.g., col., 20, lines 18 - 27).

11. As per claims 3, 20, Branstad, Fielding and Smith disclose the claimed limitations as rejected above. Branstad also discloses the following:

the segment of the predefined string and the segment of the unknown string contain a same number of characters, the lengths of each of the strings are equal (e.g., col., 3, lines 35 – 48).

12. As per claim 5, Branstad, Fielding and Smith disclose the claimed limitations as rejected above. Fielding also discloses usage of a case-insensitive (e.g., section 3.4, page 4) segment match (e.g., section 14.16, page 17).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Branstad, Fielding and Smith in order to facilitate usage of a case-insensitive segment match because the segment and would help support communicating information among two entities using the ASCII character set. The case-insensitive implementation would support usage of characters regardless of their uppercase or lowercase.

13. As per claim 8, Branstad, Fielding and Smith disclose the claimed limitations as rejected above. Branstad also discloses usage identifying a subsequent segment of the predefined string (e.g., col., 20, lines 18 - 27) and a subsequent segment of the unknown string (e.g., col., 19, lines 19 - 34) for comparison (e.g., col., 3, lines 35 - 48).

14. As per claims 14-17, 19, Branstad, Fielding and Smith disclose the claimed limitations as rejected above. Fielding also discloses the segments each include one character (e.g., section 14.2, page 2) / four characters (e.g., section 14.19, page 19, section 14.23, page 21), the unknown string including an HTTP header field (e.g., section, 14.1, page 1), the predefined string is from a table of predetermined HTTP header fields (e.g., section 14, page 1, section 14.1, page 1, section 14.2, page 2), identifying the length of strings (e.g., section 14.13, page 15).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Branstad, Fielding and Smith in order to facilitate each of the segments each include one character / four characters, the unknown string including an HTTP header field, the predefined string is from a table of predetermined HTTP header fields and identifying the length of strings because the character / four characters, HTTP header field, predetermined HTTP header field and the length of strings would enhance communicating information among two entities using the ASCII character set. The case-insensitive implementation would support usage of characters regardless of their uppercase or lowercase.

15. As per claims 22 and 23, Branstad, Fielding and Smith disclose the claimed limitations as rejected above. Fielding also discloses determining if characters of the strings are within a

predefined ASCII range (e.g., section 14.24, page 22, section 14.27, page 25), characters not within the predefined ASCII range causes to yield a negative string match (e.g., section 14.26, page 24).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Branstad, Fielding and Smith in order to facilitate determining if characters of the strings are within a predefined ASCII range and characters not within the predefined ASCII range causes to yield a negative string match because usage of the determination of characters within a predefined ASCII range and the negative string would enhance communicating information among two entities using the ASCII character set. The case-insensitive implementation would support usage of characters regardless of their uppercase or lowercase.

16. As per claim 4, Branstad, Fielding and Smith disclose the claimed limitations as rejected above. Branstad also discloses left-shifting the content of the segments if the segments contain less than predetermined number of string contents (e.g., col., 22, lines 3 - 39).

However, Branstad, Fielding and Smith do not specifically mention about shifting when less than four characters exist.

"Official Notice" is taken that both the concept and advantages of providing usage of shifting when less than four characters exist is well known and expected in the art. For example, Thinkage GCOS8 SS C Reference Manual, pages 1-71, 1996, discloses usage of these limitations, e.g., section, 2.7, page 6, section, 4.7, page 34, section, 4.12, page 36.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the well-known concept of shifting when less than four characters with the teachings of Branstad, Fielding and Smith in order to facilitate shifting when less than four characters exist because the shifting would enhance supporting decoding information. The compared information would be used for utilizing the string information.

17. As per claims 7 and 13, Branstad, Fielding and Smith disclose the claimed limitations as rejected above. However, Branstad, Fielding and Smith do not specifically mention about predetermined value 0x20202020. For example, Abgrall et al., 2003/0037237, discloses the concept of using predetermined value 0x20202020 (0x20 for each byte), e.g., paragraphs 323 and 324.

"Official Notice" is taken that both the concept and advantages of providing predetermined value 0x20202020 is well known and expected in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the well-known concept of providing predetermined value 0x20202020 with the teachings of Branstad, Fielding and Smith in order to facilitate using value 0x20202020 (as the predetermined value 0x20202020 represents four blank characters) would enhance supporting decoding information. The compared information would be used for utilizing the string information.

18. As per claim 12, Branstad, Fielding and Smith disclose the claimed limitations as rejected above. However, Branstad, Fielding and Smith do not specifically mention about predetermined value 0x20.

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"Official Notice" is taken that both the concept and advantages of providing predetermined value 0x20 is well known and expected in the art. For example, Abgrall et al., 2003/0037237, discloses the concept of using predetermined value 0x20, e.g., paragraphs 323 and 324.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the well-known concept of providing predetermined value 0x20 with the teachings of Branstad, Fielding and Smith in order to facilitate using value 0x20 (as the predetermined value 0x20 represents blank character) would enhance supporting decoding information. The compared information would be used for utilizing the string information.

19. As per claims 10, 18, Branstad, Fielding and Smith disclose the claimed limitations as rejected above. However, Branstad, Fielding and Smith do not specifically mention about the result is operated on in another bitwise operation.

"Official Notice" is taken that both the concept and advantages of providing the result is operated on in another bitwise operation is well known and expected in the art. For example, Kontio et al., 2005/0004875, January 6, 2005, discloses these limitations, e.g., paragraphs 54 and 55.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the well-known concept of providing the result is operated on in another bitwise operation with the teachings of Branstad, Fielding and Smith in order to facilitate further operating on the result because the another bitwise operation would enhance supporting decoding information. The compared information would be used for utilizing the string information.

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20. As per claim 11, Branstad, Fielding and Smith disclose the claimed limitations as rejected above. However, Branstad, Fielding and Smith do not specifically mention about predetermined value 0.

"Official Notice" is taken that both the concept and advantages of providing predetermined value 0 is well known and expected in the art. For example, Abgrall et al., 2003/0037237, discloses the concept of using predetermined value 0, e.g., paragraphs 323 and 324.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the well-known concept of providing predetermined value 0 with the teachings of Branstad, Fielding and Smith in order to facilitate shifting using value 0 (as the predetermined value 0 represents null value) would enhance supporting decoding information. The compared information would be used for utilizing the string information.

- 21. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Branstad, Fielding, Smith and "Official Notice" in view of Slater et al., 6,654,796, Cisco (Hereinafter Slater)
- 22. As per claim 21, Branstad, Fielding and Smith disclose the claimed limitations as rejected above. However, Branstad, Fielding and Smith do not specifically mention about WAN.

  Slater discloses the network being WAN (e.g., col., 1, lines 55 67, col., 9, lines 42 65).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Branstad, Fielding and Smith with the teachings of Slater

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in order to facilitate the network being WAN because the WAN would support communicating string information from one entity to another entity. The entity over the WAN would support exclusive OR operation.

- 23. Claims 24-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Branstad, Fielding, Smith and "Official Notice" in view of James et al., 6,523,108 (Hereinafter James).
- 24. As per claim 24, Branstad, Fielding and Smith disclose the claimed limitations as rejected above. Branstad also discloses the following:

use in a computer network (e.g., col., 1, lines 36 - 54, col., 3, lines 21 - 34) and the corresponding characters (e.g., col., 10, lines 9 - 34).

However, Branstad, Fielding and Smith do not specifically mention about performing OR operation.

James discloses the well-known concept of performing the bitwise OR operation (usage of logical OR gate 117).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of Branstad, Fielding and Smith with the teachings of James in order to facilitate usage of performing the bitwise OR operation because the bitwise OR operation would enhance deciding whether both the bits are having a value of "1" or not. The outcome of the bitwise OR operation i.e., "1" or "0" or would enhance informing for the string that would help support communicating information between two entities.

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25. As per claim 25, Branstad, Fielding, Smith and James disclose the claimed limitations as rejected above. Branstad also discloses the following:

a computer networking device for improving data transfer via a computer network (e.g., col., 1, lines 36 – 54, col., 3, lines 21 - 34).

26. As per claim 26, Branstad, Fielding and Smith disclose the claimed limitations as rejected above. Branstad also discloses the following:

an article of manufacture comprising a storage medium having a plurality of machinereadable instructions executed by a computing system (e.g., col., 1, lines 36 – 54, col., 3, lines 21 - 34).

#### **Conclusion**

27. The prior art made of record (forms PTO-892 and applicant provided IDS cited arts) and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. For example, Narin, 2002/0091755 discloses usage of number of predefined headers along with supplemental headers. Brown, 5,740,361, discloses string bits / header authentication using HTTP protocol and headers like Accept-Encoding, WWW-Authenticate by XORing several times and using, for example, one-character string "/" for "http://www.foo.com" string over the Internet.

Mitzenmacher et al., 5,953,503, discloses HTTP headers with ASCII characters with preset dictionaries.

Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers and/or paragraphs and/or sections and/or page numbers in the reference(s) as applied to the claims above for the

convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings of the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant in preparing responses, to fully consider the references in entirety, as potentially teaching, all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage, as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the Examiner.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Haresh Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-3973. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Haresh Patel

Haresh Patel

August 28, 2006